

Application No.: 10/034,030

Docket No.: JCLA8482

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Applicants appreciate that claims 6-10, 13, 14, 30-32, 35 and 36 are considered to be allowable.

Claims 1-5, 11, 12, 26-29, 33, 34 and 37-43 are rejected. Specifically, claims 26 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Araki et al. (US 5,855,711; hereinafter Araki). Claims 27-29, 33, 34, 37-39, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki. Claims 1-5 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki in view of Watanabe et al. (US 6,326,561; hereinafter Watanabe). Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 26 and cancelled allowable claim 6 and 30, which are recited in the independent claims 1 and 26. Claims 11, 33 and 37-49 haven been cancelled.

Response To Objections/Rejections

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 26 to recite the allowable features about planarization in original claims 6 and 30.

Claims 11 and 33 have been cancelled due to typo errors.

After the planarization process, the substrate can be used in semiconductor process, such as deposition, photolithographic and etching processes, as for example described in paragraphs [0023] - [0027].

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For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 26 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-10, 12-14, 27-32, 34-36 patently define over the prior art references as well.

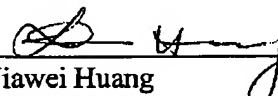
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-10, 12-14 and 26-32, 34-36 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 6/28/2004

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Respectfully submitted,
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